

Green Team (GT) Notes from October 21, 2010--Thanks everyone.

Attendees—Jessica Morgan, Roz Gryzinski, Susan Amarello, Nicole Lugli, Terry Parker, Shane Mulready, KC Alexander, Kim Trella, Kim Czapla, Maritza Pagan, Nan Peckham, Judy Belaval, Katie Dagan, Diane Foberg, Judy Singer, Mary Sherwin, Connie Mendolia

- DEP Energy Plan and GT Mission: Connie and Mary reported that the Green Team has been successful in implementing many of the recommendations in DEP's Energy Plan and will continue to make progress and identify new items to green the agency. This means that the Green Team can now focus more on ways that DEP programs can incorporate preventing pollution, reducing GHG emissions and promoting sustainability in our outreach to businesses and the public. One way of doing this is to structure Green Team meetings so that participants can share current and new DEP initiatives that are reducing pollution and promoting sustainability throughout the agency's programs. These initiatives often go unnoticed/unrecognized by staff not directly involved. Several activities going on right now were presented at the October meeting. Once the Green Team members know about these initiatives they can be a vital link for communicating these to their program and division.
- Presentation on Watershed Management and Low-Impact Development in CT: Land-use Planning for Improved Water Quality. Jessica Morgan (Water Protection and Land Resources/Planning & Standards Division) gave a presentation on this topic since she has been working with municipalities and others on this. Along with describing the benefits of LID, she showed the group several examples, including rain gardens, impervious pavements, bioretention areas, rain harvesting, etc. Resource websites include www.clear.uconn.edu, <http://www.ct.gov/dep/watershed> (Muni Outreach/ LID for Watersheds), and brochures can be found at: http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=464958&depNav_GID=1654. We plan to make this presentation available on the Green Team website in the near future; information from this presentation can be utilized by other divisions when providing assistance to the public and the regulated community.

Mary announced that DEP has teamed with EPA and the City of Hartford to put on a green jobs training focusing on installing rain gardens. This will be held in Hartford on 11/4-11/5, aimed primarily at landscapers.

Action item for GT: Kim Czapla mentioned that rest stops on the Merritt Pkwy and I-95 are being leased to a new occupant and will be renovated, etc. This is an opportunity to work with DOT to incorporate LID practices. In a previous GT meeting Shane Mulready suggested having rest stops add/enhance recycling.

- Compliance Assistance & Green Business Support Nicole Lugli provided information on this section of DEP's newly released Permitting Report. Legislation was passed that requires DEP to develop a "consulting services program" for business. Many DEP programs currently have information to help businesses but it is often hard to find and not linked to other programs. The P2 office will be working to try to make these connections and will utilize the Green Team to help do so. Also, a multi-media approach can be fostered by staff that do inspections, permitting and outreach by disseminating fact sheets, web links, etc., about other DEP programs that could be useful (i.e., Air inspectors are disseminating information on energy efficiency programs). Action item for GT: continue to look for synergies between DEP programs that help business become greener and more sustainable.
- DEP program outreach activities that aim to prevent pollution, reduce GHG emissions, etc.
 - Air/Lawn Mowers - Small engines are big polluters. Exhaust and evaporative emissions from lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chain saws and similar lawn and grounds maintenance equipment are significant sources of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, as well as contributors of air toxics and greenhouse gases. This air pollution also contributes to the formation of ozone (i.e., smog) and

haze in Connecticut. According to EPA, a push mower emits as much hourly pollution as 11 cars and a riding mower emits as much 34 cars. Using \$550,000 in Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funds from the [Ohio Edison New Source Review settlement](#), DEP launched a program by which Connecticut municipalities can save 80 percent on certain new, low-polluting lawn and grounds maintenance equipment under DEP's Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund (LEEF). Info at www.ct.gov/dep/mowerexchange

- Wood-burning Video/Outreach - In 2009, the DEP responded to 162 complaints based upon wood smoke from outdoor wood burning furnaces. To assist communities and the public, DEP continues distribution of Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces brochures to encourage the knowledgeable purchase and legal siting of these units.

DEP Air Bureau also worked with Middlesex Community College on an 8 minute "Waste Busters" Wood Smoke video and a Burn Wise poster for distribution by DEP. The video is available on the DEP site at

http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/air/wood_stove_furnaces/burn_wise.pdf

- Materials management/ Recycling noted the following items:
 - CT Material Trader (on-line material exchange program for institutions)
 - New webpages (E-waste, Construction & Demolition Management)
 - Decon '11 – national conference coming to New Haven (5/15-19, 2011)
 - October Solid Waste Advisory Cmt will focus on economic and community development resources for businesses – encouraging 'waste-based' business opportunities
- P2/Green hotels
 - CT has a certification program for hotels. Several training sessions throughout the state are being provided by DEP and other partners. **Kim Trella offered to provide a detailed report on toxics reductions for hotels at the next GT Meeting.**
- Other announcements or reports
 - Commissioner Marella has a new initiative to green the parks. Multi-media teams will be formed. More to come.
 - The clean out schedule was announced and volunteers solicited.